

Ball Painting

From 'Baby Steps to STEM'

You need:

- Small paddling pool
- White paper
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Liquid watercolour paints
- 4 or 5 different sized rubber balls
- Bucket with soap and water for clean up

Cut the paper to fit the bottom of the paddling pool so it also extends up the sides. Put a loop of folded over tape in the middle and along the sides of the pool to secure the paper.

Put the different colour paints on the paper and let your child place the balls in the pool, help them to lift the padding pool to roll the ball back and forward.

Talk to them about what you are doing:

'What colours of paint should we use?'

'Which balls should we use?'

'What happens to the paint as the balls roll back and forth?'

You could also capture their footprints by asking them to stand in the pool and step out onto new pieces of white paper.

This activity helps children gain an understanding of motion, cause and effect, and blending colours.